MARVEL REMEMBERS

JOHN ROMITA

MARVEL 3

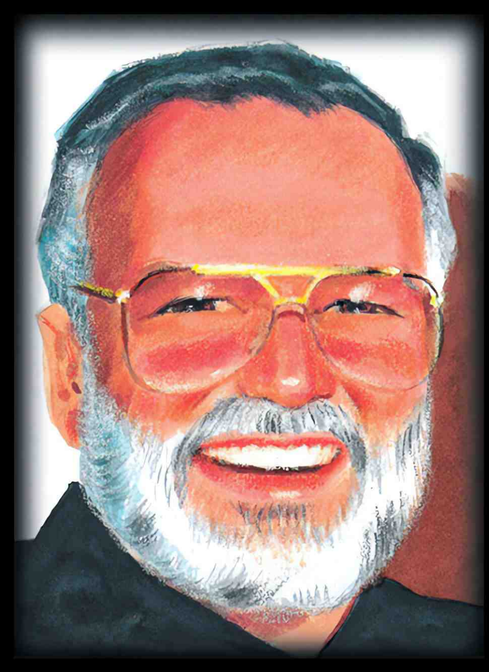
LGY#215

BLACK PANTHER

EWING
ALLEN
CHATER
YEUNG
ABURTOV

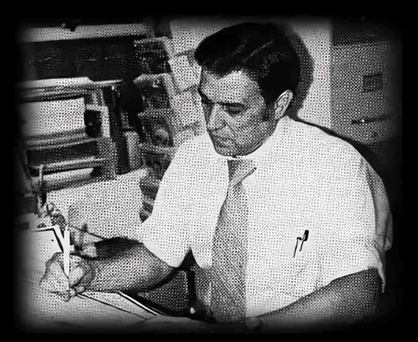
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

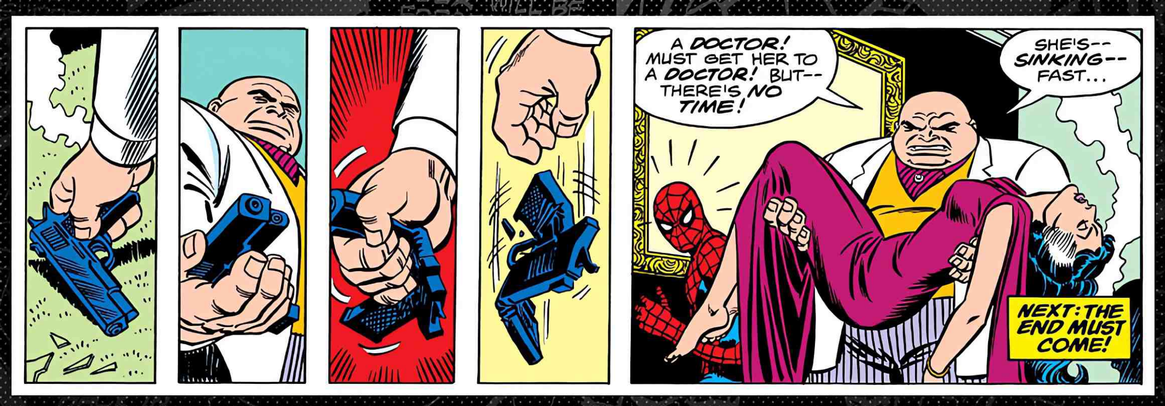
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

I DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE FIGHTING YOU, NATIMA.
OR SHOULD I CALL YOU BEISA?
BEISA. THE ORYX. SPLENDID PSEUDONYM.
GET.
OUT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO TRY TO DISARM ME?
I TOLD YOU. INTERESTING ADVERSARIES ARE HARD TO COME BY.
AND I AM CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT YOU ARE INVESTIGATING.

A SERIES OF *KIDNAPPINGS.* BITI'S ELITES, THE WEALTHY AND POWERFUL, AND THOSE *ASSOCIATED* WITH THEM.

AND I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A *THEORY.*

I DO. THE LIST OF THE MISSING, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, DOES *NOT* INCLUDE CONSPICUOUS ALLIES OF *BABA NKISU.*

THE *CRIME BOSS?*

BABA NKISU IS A "*CRIME BOSS*" THE WAY WARRIOR FALLS IS A BIT OF A HIKE.

THE WORD *DAIMYO* COMES TO MIND. OR *SOVEREIGN.*

HIS FATHER AND HIS FATHER'S FATHER SIMPLY RULED THROUGH *FORCE*. SOME OF THE MOST *VICIOUS* ACTS *WAKANDA* HAS EVER SEEN.

"NKISU TOOK THE HELM AFTER HIS FATHER WAS MURDERED BY THEIR RIVALS, THE *ILONGA* FAMILY. HE WAS ONLY 19 YEARS OLD. NO ONE TOOK HIM SERIOUSLY.

"HE DECLARED THAT HE WAS NOW *BABA*--FATHER TO ALL. THE FAMILY...AND THE CITY OF *BIRNIN T'CHAKA*.

"PUBLICLY, HE *DECRIES* HIS FAMILY'S PAST ACTIONS. FOR YEARS, HE HAS BEEN MAKING INROADS INTO LEGITIMATE BUSINESS, THROUGH MONEY LAUNDERING, RACKETEERING, PATRONAGE, BRIBERY.

"PRIVATELY, BABA NKISU IS AS VIOLENT AND CRUEL AS HIS FOREBEARS. PERHAPS *MORE SO*."

YOU WERE IN *N'YOBI UMARU'S* OFFICE. WHAT BUSINESS DOES HE HAVE IN THESE KIDNAPPINGS?

NONE. ONE OF THE DISAPPEARED, A WEALTHY INVESTOR, HAD LOANED MONEY TO A LOCAL VENDOR, WHO BROUGHT THE PAPERWORK TO N'YOBI TO LOOK OVER. I HAD HOPED THE RECORDS MIGHT BE ILLUMINATING. THEY WERE NOT.

SO YOU BROKE INTO A MAN'S SPACE AND TERRIFIED HIM FOR NAUGHT.

THE *PANTHER* CALLING THE *KETTLE* BLACK.

DO YOU ALWAYS TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE'S *BELONGINGS* WITHOUT *ASKING?*

VIBRANIUM *HAND-FORGED* IN THE ANCIENT STYLE BUT TREATED WITH DIFFERENTIAL TEMPERING FOR A SUPERIOR CUTTING EDGE? IMPRESSIVE.

OBSERVANT.

SO. A FRIEND OF YOURS WAS KIDNAPPED? A *LOVER?*

NO. AND YOU? IMPERSONATING THE *BLACK PANTHER,* SEEKING NEEDLESS DANGER. YOU GREW UP IN GREAT COMFORT, I SUPPOSE.

I DID.

WENT TO UNIVERSITY?

A FEW.

YES. WELL, I *DID NOT.* THIS... THIS IS MY FORM OF *STUDY.* IT FASCINATES ME. FORENSICS. DETECTIVE WORK. AND...

...I NEED THE FAMILIES IN EQUILIBRIUM--THE *CITY* IN EQUILIBRIUM--TO DO WHAT I DO. IF PEOPLE LIKE THIS CONTINUE TO GO MISSING--

YOU WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO *ROB* THEM.

TO PUT IT *INDELICATELY.*

JUST WHEN I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST YOU HAD A *PROMISING* FUTURE IN LAW ENFORCEMENT!

BUT WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST IN PRETENDING TO BE THE *NATION'S PROTECTOR* WHILE THE *REAL* BLACK PANTHER IS IN EXILE?

YOU'VE GOT ME. SPOT-ON.

FWING

YOU--YOU'RE REALLY--

I AM.

AND I THINK WE CAN *HELP* EACH OTHER.

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.
IN THE UNREST THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA TO BRING PEACE TO WAKANDA.
BUT EVEN IF HE IS NO LONGER KING, T'CHALLA WILL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK PANTHER.
AND THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALWAYS SERVE WAKANDA.

NOW HE HIDES IN THE SHADOWS OF BIRNIN T'CHAKA. BY DAY, T'CHALLA DISGUISES HIMSELF AS A MAN NAMED IZE, WORKING AS A DISHWASHER. AT NIGHT, THE BLACK PANTHER PROTECTS THE CITY--INCLUDING CONFRONTING A THIEF NAMED BEISA IN THE MIDDLE OF A HEIST. AND TROUBLE SIMMERS BENEATH THE BLACK PANTHER'S WATCHFUL EYE AS THE ILONGA CLAN PREPARES TO WAGE WAR AGAINST BITI'S OTHER RULING CRIME FAMILIES BY DEPLOYING THE ASSASSIN KNOWN AS DEATHLOK.

BLACK PANTHER

REIGN AT DUSK PART 3

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PENCILERS

CRAIG YEUNG AND MACK CHATER
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

WIL MOSS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

KITU MARKET.
SOME DAYS LATER.

HEY! WATCH IT!

EXCUSE ME!

HIBISCUS, BOUGAINVILLEA...

MY SISTER! WHY SUCH A HURRY AT THIS EARLY HOUR?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? IT'S THE--

--WEDDING OF THE *CENTURY!*

YOU HAVE SAID THIS PHRASE A *FEW* TIMES, ZANEEBA. BUT I AM AFRAID I CANNOT TRACK ALL THE PRINCIPAL PLAYERS.

IT'S THE GREATEST UNION WAKANDA HAS EVER SEEN!

GREATER THAN THE MARRIAGE OF *KING T'CHALLA TO ORORO MUNROE?* I HEAR THAT WAS *QUITE* THE EVENT.

ALL THE WAY IN *BIRNIN ZANA? EH!* WHO KNOWS. I'M SURE IT WAS VERY *FANCY.* BUT THIS IS A *BITI* WEDDING. OF *BITI* ROYALTY.

DO NOT LISTEN TO THE GIRL, *IZE.* SHE WAVES HER HAND VAGUELY BECAUSE SHE ONLY KNOWS THE *GLAMOUR.* NOT THE *DETAILS.*

THE BRIDE? *ALIYO* FAMILY. OLD MONEY. THE MANUFACTURING THAT SHAPED THE CITY CENTURIES AGO.

ALIYO...I *KNOW* THAT NAME.

YOU SHOULD. BUILDINGS, MUSEUMS, CHARITABLE ENTERPRISES ALL OVER *BITI*. ELEGANCE. HISTORY. DISTINCTION. FOLLOW?

YES, FAIZA, I FOLLOW.

AND THE *NKI*--

SHHHH! AH, ZANEEBA!

WE MUST BE *CAREFUL*. PLEASE ACT LIKE YOU HAVE THE GOOD SENSE THE IBIS GOD GAVE AN OX. GO BACK TO YOUR STUDIES.

THE GROOM? NKISU FAMILY. NEW MONEY. FROM THE GLOBAL STOCK EXCHANGE, THEY SAY.

PFFT. THAT MONEY IS FROM THE STOCK MARKET AS *SURE* AS MOUNTAINS ARE *FLAT*.

FOR THE ALIYO FAMILY, THIS UNION BRINGS *WEALTH*. RUMOR IS THAT MUCH OF THEIR OLD FORTUNE HAS BEEN *SQUANDERED*.

FOR THE *NKISU* FAMILY, THIS BRINGS THEM *LEGITIMACY*.

BABA NKISU ARRANGED IT *ALL*, I AM SURE OF IT.

MAY I HELP YOU?

GOOD MORNING.

I THINK YOU CAN.

NNNH...!

GET BACK, ZANEEBA. THEY ARE WITH THE *NKISUS.*

ENOUGH! WE DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS TODAY.

EVERY DISHWASHER IN THIS TOWN THINKS HE IS BRUCE LEE. BITI IS *OUT* OF *CONTROL.*

I WAS SENT WITH THIS.

THE ALIYO BRIDE IS *NOSTALGIC* FOR SOME OF THE *SIMPLE* FOOD SHE GREW UP EATING HERE IN KLIMA'S END. SHE SENDS THIS LIST OF REQUESTS.

SEVEN O'CLOCK.

YOU EXPECT ME TO PROVIDE FOR A WEDDING ON ONE DAY'S NOTICE?

IT WOULD BE WISE TO SAY *YES.*

AND AS FOR STAFF...SEND *HIM.* I WANT HIM ON *MY* SIDE IN A PINCH.

THAT WAS MORE EXCITEMENT THAN I PREFER.

IZE, WHERE DID YOU LEARN THOSE SKILLS? I SHOULD HAVE YOU AS A BODYGUARD, NOT A DISHWASHER.

I GREW UP IN A VERY CHALLENGING NEIGHBORHOOD. I HAD TO LEARN SELF-DEFENSE.

THE LIST THEY GAVE YOU IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IF YOU MAKE A MARKET RUN...

MUST HAVE BEEN VERY CHALLENGING.

VERY.

SLIGHT CHANGE OF PLANS.

IN A GOOD WAY. I HAVE A BIT OF COVER NOW.

GOOD.

THAT MAKES *TWO* OF US. REMEMBER, THIS IS A RECON MISSION.

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO REMEMBER? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CRASHED THROUGH A SKYLIGHT AT OUR LAST RENDEZVOUS.

WHAT CAN I SAY?

ALWAYS SHATTERING GLASS CEILINGS.

MORE SOON.

MOHANNDA, WAKANDA'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOR. MANY YEARS AGO.

CRASH

FOCUS, NATIMA. *FOCUS.*

--OUR *CHILD*. FROM MY VERY WOMB. NO MATTER WHAT--

I DON'T *CARE*! IT'S A *DISGRACE* ON OUR FAMILY. ALL OF THE HOPES AND *DREAMS* WE INVESTED... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL MY *FATHER*? MY *BROTHERS*?

NATIMA? WHERE ARE YOU, MY LOVE?

NO! MY BABY IS GONE!

WHAT TO TELL YOUR FATHER? YOUR *BROTHERS*?

"TELL THEM YOU *DROVE* YOUR OWN *CHILD* AWAY."

BIRNIN T'CHAKA.
PRESENT DAY.

I'M HERE AT THE *FRANÇOISE ALIYO MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE*, AND THE HOUR IS ALMOST *UPON* US! WELL-WISHERS FROM ACROSS WAKANDA AND *AROUND* THE *GLOBE* ARE ARRIVING TO CELEBRATE THE HAPPY COUPLE...

YOU'RE BRINGING *WHAT* FROM *WHERE?*

HE'S ALL *GOOD.* SPECIAL DELIVERY, *BRIDE'S REQUEST.*

HER SUITE IS IN THE *PENTHOUSE.* I'LL SIGNAL AHEAD AND MY COLLEAGUE IN THE ELEVATOR WILL LET YOU *UP.*

THANK YOU, SIR.

APPROACHING THE *BRIDAL* SUITE. THEN I'LL BACKTRACK. ONLY TWO OF THEM GUARDING WHAT I *ASSUME* IS THE NKISU SUITE.

WHAT'S YOUR POSITION?

WHAT CAN I GET YOU, BELOVED?

OH, SURPRISE ME.

I'M IN PLACE. EVERYONE IS PAYING RESPECTS TO *GRANDMOTHER ALIYO*, BUT NO ACTION ON THE NKISU SIDE. SO BABA MAY WELL BE UPSTAIRS.

SPECIAL DELIVERY FROM *FAIZA'S*...THE AUTHENTIC TASTE OF KLIMA'S END FOR THE *BRIDE* ON HER *SPECIAL* DAY!

HOW VERY... *RUSTIC.*

CRASH

WHAT IN THE...?

DAMMIT. WE NEVER CAME UP WITH CODENAMES.

WEDDING CRASHER TWO... POT-CALLING-KETTLE... HOLY *BAST*, I THINK YOU NEED TO GET DOWN HERE!

ANY SECOND NOW WOULD BE GOOD, WAKANDA'S PROTECTOR!

SEVERAL WAKANDANS COULD USE SOME PROTECTING FROM...WHATEVER THIS IS!

COME IN! COME--!

I'M HERE.

AND THIS... APPEARS TO BE *DEATHLOK.*

NEXT: SHOWDOWN.

What's good, y'all? Eve L. Ewing here. Welcome to the letters page! Thanks to everyone who has jumped on board for this tour of a lesser-known corner of Wakanda. Hope you're having a good time so far. We love letters (and fan art), so please send them along if you have thoughts to share. Let's dive into a few...

Hey Eve, Chris, Craig, Jesus, and Marvel,

I just finished reading issue #1 of BLACK PANTHER and I am super hype for where this story (Reign at Dusk) is going! First of all, I'm really digging the suit. It seems like it's more of a barebones/back to basics look for T'Challa. It really gives off a traditional look, but is still about that action. The addition of the 3 additional lines on the left side of the mask is very sick! The overall asymmetry works really well!

Thank you for giving us a glimpse of Birnin T'Chaka! It's cool to see a different Wakandan city and to see how urban it is (also interesting to see that even in Wakanda not all cities are treated equally; and I'm assuming that's something that will be explored further in this arc).

All that being said, I'm a little concerned that T'Challa is defying his exile. If he's trying to still be in Wakanda's good graces/find a way back to it, I'm afraid this was the wrong move. There is no way that this act does not bite him in the butt later on. Someone in parliament's going to catch a whiff of this defiance sooner or later. Also, we just got N'Yobi and I'm already concerned that he might be in danger just by this initial meeting with T'Challa! Who is this new costumed character? Is she the avatar for another god in Wakanda? Is she going to be T'Challa's Black Cat? Lastly, I'm not super familiar with Deathlok (aside from *Agents of Shield*), but I'm excited for what the next issues have to bring.

Thank you for kicking off this new volume!

Sincerely,
TJ

Thanks for writing, TJ! I, too, am a big fan of the suit. As someone who gets fifty-leven hundred thousand emails a day, I find a special joy in opening anything that says CHRIS ALLEN on it because it means I'm about to say "good lord!" or cuss at the screen or generally have to pick my jaw up off the floor. But of all of Chris's art, it's still the suit design that has me the most floored. And I'm glad you're enjoying Birnin T'Chaka! As a born-and-raised Midwesterner/Rust Belt/"flyover state" denizen, I found myself curious to know what goes on outside the Golden City.

As for T'Challa's defiance of his exile probably being a bad choice...what can I say? Sometimes all of us find ourselves skulking back to a place where we know we don't need to be. He's spent his whole life being the king and the Black Panther and sort of doesn't know what else to do with himself.

N'Yobi is definitely in danger. Being friends with a super hero is always risky. Heroes, leave your regular friends out of your business, please! As for Beisa...by now you've gotten to spend a bit more time with her. Hope you love her as much as I do!

To each person on the BLACK PANTHER team,

I hope you all are doing well. It's my first time writing in and it's no coincidence that it is related to BLACK PANTHER. Over the past two years, *Black Panther* (2018) unexpectedly became one of my favorite super-hero movies. It made me question my career and my values and has contributed to my decision to change my professional career in pursuit of genuine human connection and caring for thy neighbor. Because of the impact of the movie has stayed with me, I have been giving BLACK PANTHER comics a shot, but nothing has stuck with me so far. Still, the release of issue #1 was one I was excited for as I set in my schedule weeks in advance. I remained hopeful to connect to the messages of artists who use Black Panther to convey pertinent thoughts and ideas that relate to our world today.

So with all that in mind, I am happy to share that after reading issue #1, I am excited for the next issue and beyond. To start off, the color and format of the panels are worth a pause of appreciation. And if you're like me, appreciating the world is sometimes hard to come by. But within the comic, the artists' work made appreciating the world (albeit a fictional one) second nature. If anyone ever decides to create a Black Panther animated movie, I hope your team would be involved. As someone who feels more like an outsider than royalty on most days, you can also start to see why I immediately connected to this BLACK PANTHER comic. Someone who literally works in the shadows as he helps the people of Wakanda. The lack of recognition causes him to feel lonely, but he still acts to care for his home. Now that's the type of person I'd like to be. Furthermore, the focus on the people of Wakanda and their stories resonated with many of my personal reasons for changing careers. What else is there to say except that I love the first issue? Really, really love it.

To end, thank you and I'm wishing you all the best. I'll be happily waiting for and reading each issue!

Jay

Hi Jay! I really appreciate that you took the time to give comics a shot after meeting the Panther in the incredible film adaptations. I am also glad that you are picking up the human threads of our story. Feeling like an outsider, loving a place but not being sure how best to contribute and use your time well, painful loss, intellectual and spiritual inspiration, searching for a sense of purpose, connections to ancestors and family, failure--these are the underlying themes that animate the tale we are trying to tell. As comics creators, we know that you come for the hero, but you stick around for the

person beneath the costume and their universal struggles. Thanks for reading! Cheers!

BLACK PANTHER #1 was really fabulous. I haven't been following him much recently but thought I'd give it a shot, since it seemed a little more of an easy on-boarding than, say, the one where he was in space. Eve L. Ewing's writing was great, with clear characterization of all the characters and interesting insights into what it means for T'Challa to no longer be king (although that has happened before--but there was always some other royal around; now he's not king and there's no kingship at all). I think Wakanda's change from monarchy to democracy is probably long overdue and it will be interesting to see what effect that has on the everyday Wakandan citizen, as Ewing said. The art was also really fantastic. The linework was great, with hugely detailed environments, and the coloring was equally amazing. It was honestly some of the best coloring I've seen in a long time. It just added so much to the sense of what the space was like, both in the actual colors of the objects and the way they reflected color off themselves and through the lighting. I was just totally taken aback at how well the world was realized in both writing and images.

Chris

Chris, thanks for this super kind note. I am especially breathing a sigh of gratitude at your note about "clear characterization" because there are a lot of new faces in this run, and I am trying to make them feel as real and full as I can for you, but there's always the fear that they can get lost in the shuffle! So thanks for that. But yoooo, can we talk about Jesus and these COLORS?! This is my first time working with Jesus and I'm so grateful for his work. The post-industrial landscape of Biti, the nightlife, the fashion! This is a team effort and I'm really glad Jesus is on this team. We appreciate you taking time to catch these little details!

Oh, what a great year has it been for me as a Marvel Comics fan! I'm getting banger after banger in these book relaunches, and as a somewhat newbie to T'Challa (having only read him in Avengers stuff), I am LOVING the new BLACK PANTHER! Ever since I first learned of Wakanda, I wanted to see more of its world-building and people, and I'm already in awe with the brilliant world Eve's constructing. I hope N'Yobi and all the citizens we've met at Birnin T'Chaka came to stay--they make T'Challa the most interesting I've seen yet! Keep up the great work!

Carol O.

Thanks, Carol! Like you, I was of course a fan before I was a creator, and like you, I always wanted more more more of Wakanda! It's pretty unreal to get to play in the sandbox now and build it out. And I'm glad you like N'Yobi. Small story--when I was at New York Comic-Con last year signing comics, I met a lawyer named Clayton (hi Clayton!) who pointed out that Jennifer Walters and Matt Murdock are both (usually) criminal defense attorneys, and suggested that the Marvel Universe could use more public defenders, labor lawyers, civil rights lawyers, and so on. This stuck in the back of my mind, and now we have N'Yobi, the community-focused, empathic, and perpetually broke attorney who always puts people first (sometimes to his own detriment).

Dear BLACK PANTHER crew,

Congratulations on bringing a new chapter of T'Challa's saga to life! From the moment I opened the cover of issue #1, it was clear we were in for a new perspective on Wakanda.

I was enthralled by the dense, industrial warren of Birnin T'Chaka, still identifiably Wakandan yet grittier, hard-edged, and vigorous--like so many American cities a few decades past their prime--and brought to pulsating life through the interplay of vibrant colors and deep shadow. Major kudos to the art team for that striking atmosphere!

As for the writing, T'Challa is in uncharted territory, questioning everything about his nation and his own existence like never before, and I admire how his inner monologue captures both his strength and utter confusion, while those around him jockey to carve out a place in his newly volatile nation.

This is long-winded, so I'll just wrap up by saying I can't wait to see how it all plays out, and look forward to learning more about this country we all thought we knew, but, like its former king, maybe we never knew at all.

Cheers!
Forrest Dylan Bryant

Forrest, thanks for the lovely and generous letter! I'm snapping my fingers in agreement as I read. Uncharted territory, yes! Maybe we never knew the country at all, yasss! "Grittier, hard-edged, and vigorous" is everything we were going for. It also describes how my editors get when I take too long to turn something in, so I should wrap up this mailbag page.

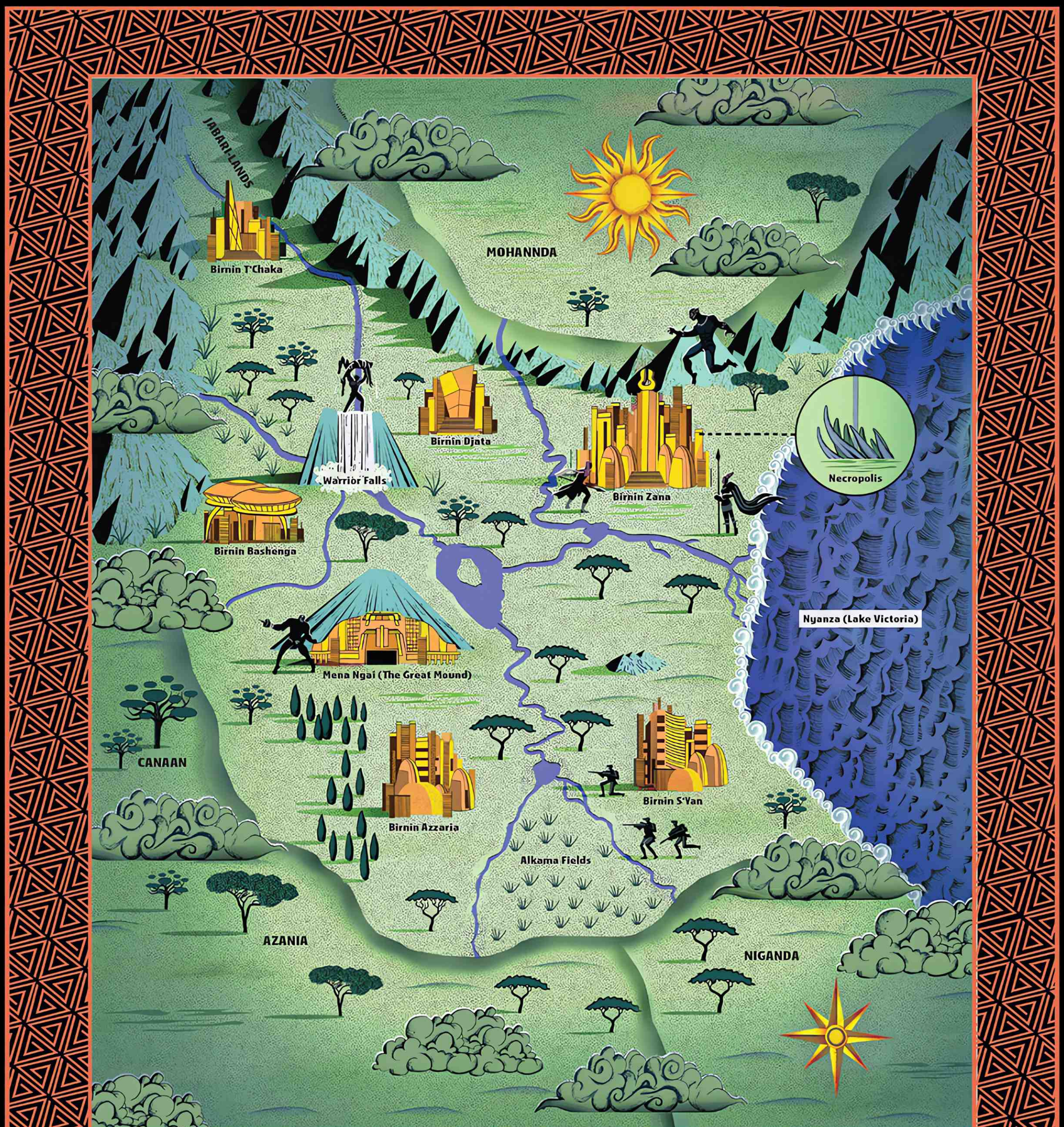
Thanks, everyone, for reading. Stay tuned for more, and I hope you're having a good time, because I sure am.

Wakanda forever,
Eve

We want to hear from you! For a chance to have your letter answered in a future issue (and/or to suggest a name for this letters column), write us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters "OK TO PRINT"!

MAP OF WAKANDA

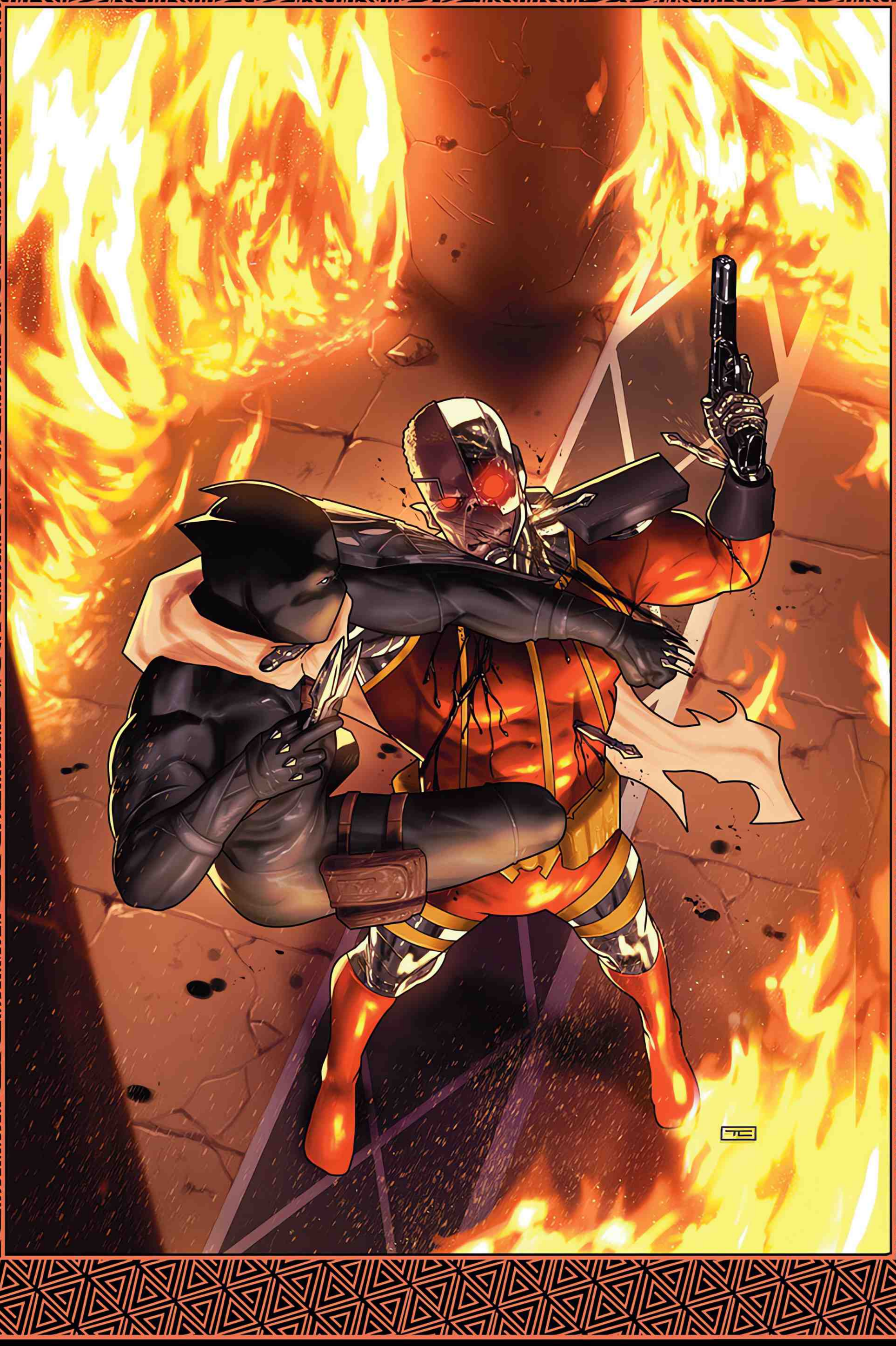
BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE: MAP BY MAP** (2021).



BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

NEXT ISSUE:



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